Abstract

A highly specific and easily purified form of hyaluronidase is described for use in ophthalmic treatments. The enzyme, from *Streptomyces hyalurolyticus* is specific for hyaluronidase and carries out an elimination reaction that results in the production of double bonds at the nonreducing end of hyaluronic acid. Hyaluronidase from *Streptomyces hyalurolyticus* has a higher activity than comparable enzymes from other species. The enzyme is now capable of being purified in what is essentially a protease-free form making it applicable to medical treatments. The use of this source of hyaluronidase in ophthalmic treatments is now made possible by its high activity, specificity for hyaluronidase and purity.